

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

*Blue Knights © California VI*



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**MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING DATE**  
February 11, 2023

## JANUARY, 2023



The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have. (Vince Lombardi)

**FEATURED  
IN THIS  
EDITION**



**Poker Chip drawing was held. Val Stoffel's name was drawn. Since Val was not present, he did not win the \$20.**

By being present at the monthly Blue Knight Chapter meeting you become eligible for the drawing. If you are present, you win the amount in the pot. If you are not present \$5 is added to the pot. Currently the amount is \$25.



# THE BLUE KNIGHTS



The Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., is an International fraternal organization comprised of law enforcement officers and their families who are also motorcycle enthusiasts.

Headquartered in Bangor, Maine, the Blue Knights® operates under an international constitution and bylaws within an organizational structure of an international board of directors and eleven regional conferences, each conference including a number of local chapters. The Blue Knights® promotes safe and responsible motorcycling and sponsors fund raising in support of numerous charities.

The inception of the Blue Knights® came in April 1974 when a Bangor Maine, police officer had the idea of forming a motorcycle club for people in law enforcement. Since then, the club has grown to become the foremost and largest international law enforcement motorcycle club. Today, there are over twenty thousand Blue Knights® worldwide in six hundred in six hundred chapters in the twenty-nine countries and one commonwealth.



## OUR CHAPTER IN SAN DIEGO

### CALIFORNIA VI



Chapter California VI was formed in 1987 by a group of seventeen San Diego area law enforcement officers, some retired and some on active duty. We have been chartered since January 1988, making us one of the oldest currently existing Blue Knights® chapters in California. Our members are full-time, part-time and retired law enforcement officers from local, county, state and federal levels.

We are presently one of the largest chapters in the Southwest Conference, with over 40 members on our rolls. Chapter California VI members strive to promote a positive image both of law enforcement and motorcycling. We are active in community service projects, and each year we donate to local charities.

Chapter meetings are held at 0900 on the second Saturday of the month at the Broken Yolk Restaurant, 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, CA. (Unless that is a holiday weekend) After the breakfast and one hour meeting, we go for a ride.

Persons interested in becoming a member may contact Vice President Alan Wheeler by email at: [vice\\_president@bk-cavi.org](mailto:vice_president@bk-cavi.org)



# CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



## PRESIDENT

[Ken Smith](#)

## VICE-PRESIDENT

[Alan Wheeler](#)

## SECRETARY

[Shari Stegall](#)

## TREASURER

[Chuck Belletti](#)

## DIRECTORS

[Richard Bennett](#)

[Mike Harrison](#)

[Ray Juanengo](#)

## MORALE & WELFARE

[Michelle Juanengo](#)

## IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

[John Lopotosky](#)

## WEBMASTER

[Stephen Roche](#)

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

[Richard Bennett](#)

## RIDE COORDINATOR

[Alan Wheeler](#)

## SAFETY OFFICER

[Richard Bennett](#)

## QUARTERMASTER

[Arturo Romero](#)

## GREETER

[Tina Lopotosky](#)

PLEDGE: As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights®



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Ken Smith President**



**"I have served. I will be of service."**

Yes, I borrowed that from John Wick. I think it's at the core of what it means to be a Blue Knight. Family. Brotherhood. Honor. Safety. SERVICE. All of us have served in our honored profession, and in the Blue Knights, we continue to do so.

I am honored to be your new President, and have been honored to serve you as a Vice President and Director. I look forward to my continued service to all of you, and to working with the great leadership team that has our Chapter's back.

We had a great 2022 and capped it off with a wonderful Christmas Party (you need to be there for the next one!) This year is already shaping up to be a great year for us, with all the events, rides, a potential return to an annual event for our own Chapter, and a new year filled with hope, brotherhood...and service. Service to each other, our family and friends, and our community. RWP Cal 6!



**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI  
General Membership Meeting**



**January 14, 2023  
AGENDA**

Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 0900 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I

Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members

Moment of Silence for Fallen Riverside County Deputy Sheriff's Killed in the line of duty.

Deputy Isaiah Cordero KIA December 29, 2022

Deputy Darnell Calhoun KIA January 13, 2023

Introductions/Guests:

Blue Knights Pledge

"As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights."

**President Ken Smith**

1. Putting in order for name tags-let Ken know if you want one
2. Recruiting- 41 members (includes 2 Honorary, 1 Associate)
3. Renewals are done
4. We are all recruiters!
5. Special Honorary-Chaplain being discussed

**Vice President Alan Wheeler**

1. 2023 Christmas Party
  - Venue hunt in progress. Trying to reduce costs. Looking for lodges, Legion Posts, VFWs, Elks, etc....Please reach out with any ideas or connections.
2. Creation of an Annual Event/Ride
  - We would like to have an annual poker run to honor BK VI Past President Lt. Col. Grant Frey.
  - SD Vulcan Riders offered to help with event.
3. Vacant Ride **Coordinator** Position
  - Duties are to make sure After Meeting Ride for every meeting
  - Also, 2 vacancies for ride leaders
  - Reach out to previous ride planners/leaders for re-rides on previous popular AMRs

**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI**  
**General Membership Meeting**

4. Jim Kern is in hospital with terminal liver cancer. He was a past CA VI quartermaster for 10 years. Please keep in your prayers and reach out. See Alan for his phone number.

**Treasurer Chuck Belletti**

1. Financial Status given

**Secretary Shari Stegall**

1. Nothing to add

**Chapter Directors:**

John Lopotosky (Past President)

1. 2023 Renewal's Completed
  - Will continue using Square for payments
2. Distribution of Chapter Roster
  - Set standards/guidelines to prevent any misuse of rosters
  - Members should ask for roster; not a blanket distribution

Ray Juanengo (Excused)

- 1.

Richard Bennett (Safety Officer)

1. Newsletter
  - Get out as early as possible.
  - This is your newsletter- want to hear stories from you; anything motorcycle oriented would be great
2. Discussion on Chapter Uniforms – Member Input
  - Suggest white shirt with vest instead of black shirt with vest
3. Suggestions for 2023 Charity Donation
  - Suggest charities to BOD members

Mike Harrison

1. Nothing to add

**Staff:**

Arturo Romero (Quarter Master)

- Nothing to add

Stephen Roche (Webmaster)- absent

Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator)- excused

1. Please notify Michelle if anyone is sick/ill/ hospitalized/in need of assistance

Good of the order:

- Got money back from jersey/hoodie debacle
- Reaching out to see if anyone knows anyone who sells swag. Need samples and no pre-pay.

## **BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI General Membership Meeting**

- Art Romero received award for being AMAZING!

### Poker Chip Drawing:

- Val Stoffel wins. Not present, so money goes back into pot

### 50 – 25/25 Winners:

- Mike Harrison and Ken Smith win 25/25

### Raffle Prizes:

Motion to Adjourn by: Bill Crow

Seconded by: Alex Cross

Meeting Adjourned at: 0951

### Next Meeting:

0900 Hours – Broken Yolk  
February 11, 2023

## **Submit your Blue Knight articles to the Knightly News**

The Knightly News is published monthly by Blue Knights California VI. All members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles deemed appropriate include but are not limited to: articles regarding motorcycle oriented stories, personal travel, police functions or informational / technical topics.

As a reminder, any submissions of re-printed articles must clearly give credit to the original author.

Copyrighted material must have permission of the author to be eligible. This can be remedied by writing up an outline of the article and by referencing the original author.

Articles that are deemed inappropriate for publication include and are not limited to: articles regarding controversial, personal choices, religious positions or advocacy for questionable action. Questions about material that does not fall clearly within the guidelines will be brought to the attention of the Chapter President by the Editor, for a decision of appropriateness. If necessary, the Board may review the article and make a decision to publish or not to publish.

**Submit articles to Editor: [electrotalk2610@outlook.com](mailto:electrotalk2610@outlook.com)**

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES**

SUNDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING



# SAFETY MESSAGE

Richard Bennett, Safety Officer



## Que sera sera

(Doris Day)

Welcome to 2023! A new year filled with optimism, hopes and personal resolutions.

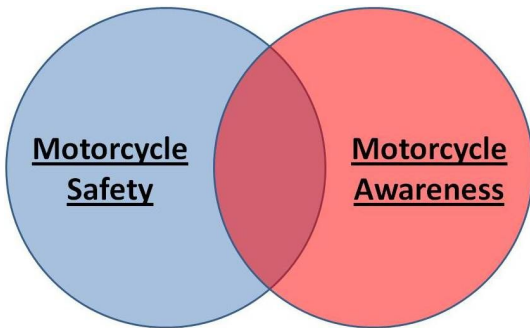
As with many of you, I am making plans for 2023, and have developed goals for the Blue Knights Safety Messages. Setting goals helps us to stay on track for overall achievement, so here are mine for 2023.



(1) Improve group riding practices.



(2) Encourage use of protective riding gear.



(3) Raise awareness of risk management.



(4) Encourage positive image of motorcycle riders.

**In addition, I would like to hear from you.** Is there a topic you would like more information about? Are there things you would like to see happen regarding our motorcycle adventures? Things you would like to see stop happening? More of something? Less of something? Let me know.

Some examples of topics may be “communications on group rides”, or “list of rider training classes available”. This is your Blue Knight chapter, and *your voice is important*. As the Safety Officer and one of your Directors, I solicit your comments.

A good leader looks out for his team. A good team lets the leader know what they need. Let me know. Please.

[electrotalk2610@outlook.com](mailto:electrotalk2610@outlook.com)

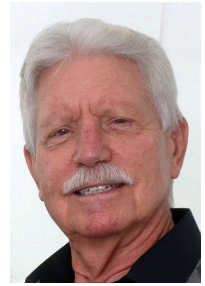




# Road Wisdom

## Do We Deserve It?

by Richard Bennett



**There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge.  
(Noah Webster)**

Recently a group of motorcycle riders passed me in the other direction. The lead rider had a full-face mask, making him look like a skull with a beanie helmet. His companions rode loud American motorcycles with “ape hanger” bars, and they all were aggressively winding through traffic. They made quick, abrupt lane changes without signaling. They revved their engines at slower vehicles, and did their best to intimidate drivers around them. Law enforcement would call them “aggressive drivers.” They were making an impression on everyone who saw them, as I am sure they meant to do.

During a gathering of Blue Knights, I asked veteran motorcycle riders what kind of actions by other riders irritated them. Keep in mind these were riders themselves. Their answers were in line with non-riders; splitting lanes at high speed, wheelies, aggressive riding, and crossing double lines to pass on mountain roads, etc. A few bad riders give us all a bad image. Add this to the non-riding public’s lack of understanding about the motorcycling experience and you begin to see how big misconceptions about our sport can be.

Every motorcycle rider shares the same metamorphous. We buy our first motorcycle, learn to ride it, and trade up. When we get our first “status” bike, we buy the clothing, join clubs and take on the personality of “biker”. We all dress the part, including the ladies who ride or join us as passengers. It is a rite of passage; a path to acceptance by other “bikers”. But often the path to acceptance by one group is the road to alienation from other groups.

During my metamorphous I attended as many motorcycle events as I could. Often, I would be waiting to register into a hotel, while standing in line with dressed-out bikers. There is a line in a country western song that says “I see by your outfit you’re a Cowboy”. Not always true, it seems. While making small-talk, I discovered the bikers were often policemen, bankers, lawyers, teachers and even clergymen. I couldn’t tell it from their clothing.

And neither can car drivers, or motorcycle riders who drive cars. It is easy to forget the people on those motorcycles are just like the vast majority of us.

Each week I read stories of motorcycle riders dying on the road. From the scant details in the newspaper, I quickly (maybe too quickly) rationalize who was at fault. The single-vehicle crash when the rider went off the mountain road makes me think the rider was doing something “stupid”. Two bikers colliding with each other gives me the impression one of their own caused the crash. There may or may not have been alcohol involved.

In my years of motorcycle riding and reviewing motorcycle collisions, I have developed an overly-simplistic conclusion about what causes most of our “accidents”: An impaired driver

and/or an unnecessary risk. "Impairment" may be the lack of training, fatigue or chemicals in the system. "Unnecessary risk" covers everything from unsafe passing to choosing not to wear adequate protective clothing. (Think of the celebrities who have crashed while not wearing a helmet.)

I admit this is purely subjective on my part, and hardly scientific. Sure, there are equipment failures, unexpected animals darting in front of us and acts of nature (remember the police officer responding to the earthquake in Los Angeles who drove off the end of a broken bridge?).

As motorcycle riders we always mourn the loss of one of our own. But what does the non-motorcycling public feel?

In an issue of Motorcycle Consumer News, Cycle Attorney Michael G. Sullivan responded to a question from a motorcyclist who had been injured by a car driver making a left turn in front of him. The rider wanted to know if he should take the "very low" settlement offered by the driver's insurance company or should he go to court. I was surprised by the advice.

Mr. Sullivan advised the rider to take the settlement, because a jury would be unsympathetic to the rider. As an attorney dealing with motorcycle issues, Mr. Sullivan has learned the dichotomy between riders and non-riders. Motorcycle riders see themselves as rugged individualists who don't care what some TV-watching couch potato thinks of them. They imagine the public doesn't like us because they envy our freedom and daring lifestyle.

Mr. Sullivan says the truth is a lot less flattering. People *don't* like us because some riders engage in dangerous, childish behavior on public roads. They don't envy us; they think we are risk takers who, when we get hurt in a crash, got what was coming to us.

If he is right about public perception, what can we do about it? We will never stop the wheelie artists or the loud-pipe aggressive bikers, but we can do meaningful things to show that not all motorcycle riders are alike.

On your rides, show a little politeness to other drivers. Wave a lane changer over, and drop back. Give a "thanks" wave to a driver who makes room for you. Wave to children in passing cars (you will be surprised by the smile and return wave). Show you are more like them than they thought.

Maybe someday they will be on a jury hearing your case. They may be the ones who listen to the description of your motorcycle-versus-car collision. Will they support you, or side with the other driver and think you got what you deserved?





# San Diego Vulcan Riders Association Invitation to Ride

By Ray Juanengo, Director



On Saturday, January 7th, Blue Knight CA VI member Brian Sutliff and I joined members of the San Diego Vulcan Riders Association (SDVRA) for their monthly meeting and after meeting ride. SDVRA President Jim Elhinger gave everyone a pre ride safety brief and went over hand signals for single and formation group riding, as the area had just dealt with lots of rain and we were going to be riding through some twisties.

The ride started in Fallbrook where the meeting took place and had the riders going through some scenic country in De Luz Canyon. During the ride, we stopped at the smallest US Post Office I've ever seen for a group photo opportunity. The end destination was out to Lake Elsinore for lunch and libations at the newly re-opened Hell's Kitchen.

All in all, 17 riders participated and Brian and I were glad to have taken up the SDVRA on their invitation to ride.

Whether a Kawasaki Vulcan, a Harley Davidson, an Indian or some other motorcycle, as long as you ride, you can Ride with Pride.



Brian and Ray



Closed today



## Remembering James Phillip Kern

By Alan Wheeler, Vice President CA VI



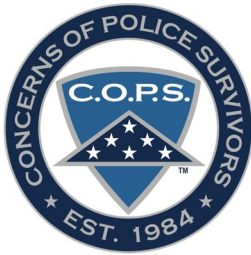
Jim Kern was a valued former Honorary member of the San Diego Blue Knights. Jim held the quartermaster position for over 8 years and sacrificed attending many after meeting rides due to the amount of club products he had to transport and display each meeting.

Jim enjoyed his 2005 Yamaha FJR 1300 motorcycle up to the moment his health prevented him from doing so. A selfless hard worker, Jim would always be first to assist the chapter with poker runs, promotional events, picnic and Christmas parties. Jim worked many trades but specialized in plumbing, and even assisted with this writer's bathroom remodel in 2018.

He is survived by his wife Laurie and two sisters. Laurie and Jim met in 1991 and married in 2006. No children. Jim's transfer to Heaven One and fight-for-life ended on January 17, 2023. He was 65 years of age.



The members of Blue Knights California VI - San Diego, are honored to support the following charities. Donations are encouraged.



<https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/>



<https://nextstepservice dogs.org/>



<https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/>



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**FINAL HONOR**  
*Horse-Drawn Funeral Carriage  
At Miramar National Cemetery*

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<https://www.finalhonor.net/>

# UPCOMING RIDES



## Southwest Winter Gathering

Lake Havasu City, Arizona  
Hosted by Arizona VI

February 3 - 5, 2023  
Hampton Inn and Suites  
245 London Bridge Rd.  
Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403  
(928) 855-4071  
Room rates: \$143 + tax

Info: [bkaz6.org](http://bkaz6.org)

## Blue Knights Southwest Conference

Las Vegas, Nevada  
Hosted by Nevada I

May 7 - 11, 2023  
Tuscany Inn and Suites  
255 East Flamingo Rd.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169  
(877) 887-2261  
Room rates: \$69 + tax

Info: [bknv1.vegas](http://bknv1.vegas)